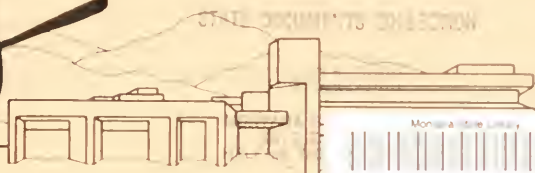


Montana Newsletter

Montana State Library

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News



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VOLUME 18, No.2

MARCH 1989

House Bill 193 Committee Hearing

The March 13 Appropriations Committee hearing for House Bill 193, Information Access

Montana, lasted about 30 minutes and featured testimony from Montana library leaders and a representative from the Montana Education Association. The bill would provide \$3,000,000 in state aid to public libraries; 63.6% for direct grants to public libraries, 13.3% for interlibrary loans, 12% for a statewide library card, and 11.1% to support federations.

A last-minute time change caused some who were scheduled to testify to miss the hearing. Fog and freezing rain in northern Montana kept others who wanted to attend, away. Nevertheless, Room 104 was full, and when Committee Chair, Representative Francis Bardonou, asked that persons who were there in support of the bill stand up, about half of the group of 40 did so. When he asked for those opposed to stand up, there was no response from the group. Representative Bardonou also noted he had received more mail regarding this bill than any other piece of legislation and that all of it was positive.

State Librarian, Richard Miller was the first to testify. He stressed that many western states

comparable to Montana appropriate state funds for libraries. He also said that West Virginia, one of the poorest states in the nation, has one of the nation's highest per capita state expenditures for its libraries. Gloria Hermanson, Lobbyist for the Montana Cultural Advocacy, followed Miller and asserted that, "access to information is something Montana cannot afford to be without."

Lewis & Clark Library Director and Montana Library Association Legislative Chair, Debbie Schlesinger, detailed the fiscal blows to library budgets in the last few years including decline in mill levies, loss of revenue sharing and funding lost through passage of Proposition 105.

Finally, a representative from the Montana Education Association expressed that organization's support for the bill.

(See "Bill" pg. 4)

National LSCA Hearing in Kalispell

On Friday, March 31 at 9 A.M., the Flathead County Library in Kalispell will host a hearing of national significance. U.S. Representatives Pat Williams from Montana and Major Owens from New York both of the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) Oversight Committee will be there to hear testimony from Montana State Librarian, Richard Miller; Utah State Librarian, Amy Owen; Flathead County Library Director, Georgia Lomax; Montana State Library Commission Chair, Mary Hudspeth; and, tentatively, Anne Matthews, Director of Library Programs for the Office of Educational Research and Improvement at the U.S. Department of Education.

The LSCA, an act which

(See "LSCA" pg. 4)

Calendar of Events

April

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|--------|---|
| 3 | Title II Applications Due |
| 9 - 15 | National Library Week |
| 11 | ALA Legislative Day- Washington, D.C. |
| 23-29 | Reading is Fun Week |
| 25 | Title II Advisory Council Meeting |
| 26 | Mt. Library Services Advisory Council- Billings |
| 26-29 | MLA/MPLA Joint Conference- Billings |
| 29 | Montana Library Commission- Billings |

Commission Holds First 1989 Meeting in Helena

The Montana State Library Commission met March 1 in Helena and approved the intent statements of 1990 Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) proposals which included, among others, a recommendation which would provide scholarship money for Montana librarians to attend graduate school in the field of library science and partial funding of either the founders' fee for Montana's share of taking over the Western Library Network (WLN) or for costs of conversion to a new bibliographic utility. Discussion of LSCA Titles I and III grants for FY 1990 centered on proposals targeted by the Library Services Advisory Council as those in need of immediate funding. There will be \$140,000 in grants available in FY 1990. The Commission is still considering the proposals and will not give final approval to the specific grants until their April 29 meeting.

In other business, the Commission approved the revised Tamarack Federation 1989 Plan of Service which includes, among other programs, purchase of a telefax machine for federation headquarters at Missoula, continuing education workshops at federation meetings, and collection development grants.

They also agreed to a suggestion from State Librarian Richard Miller that he bring to the next Commission meeting a recommendation for action regarding task forces versus statewide committees. Task forces would be charged with specific tasks to accomplish and would be disbanded when the tasks were completed. The Commission officially said goodbye to N.reen Alldredge who has served as the Commissioner of Higher Education's designee for six years. Alldredge had announced she would not seek

reappointment to the Commission Chair, Mary Hudspeth, thanked Alldredge for her contributions and noted she would be a "tough act to follow."

The commissioners welcomed Joan Toole who was acting for new commission member, Nancy Keenan. Keenan takes the commission seat designated for the Superintendent of Public Instruction. It is not yet known whether Keenan will designate someone to serve in her place permanently or if she will serve as a commissioner.



New Books at the State Library

The Montana State Library has acquired new books of interest to librarians. Anyone interested in borrowing any of the following books should call or write Information Resources at the Montana State Library, 1515 E 6th, Helena, 59620 (406) 444-3004.

Censorship and Selection, Issues and Answers for Schools by Henry Reichman (025 218 Reichman) is a concise overview of current issues in censorship as it relates to schools in the United States. The 140-page book gives practical advice for educators who may have to deal with censorship issues as well as many case histories of legislation in censorship in schools.

Changing Technology, Opportunity and Challenge edited

by Alphonse F. Trezza (025.02 Chagin) features papers from the Fifth Annual Library Conference in March of 1987. The various papers explore new technology in libraries from "The Vanishing Library Catalog: Access, Bibliography and Technology," to "People and Technology: A Delicate Balance."

Human Relations in Library Network Development by Charles T. Townley (021 65 Townley) is "designed to assist librarians, libraries and networks who want to create effective relationships by developing the human aspects of networks as they relate to communications structures, resource flows and especially perceptions." Most of the book discusses case studies dealing with problems and successes in library networking.

(See "Books" pg. 4)

Top Shelf Honors Libraries' Best Friends

The deadline is rapidly approaching (April 3!) for submitting nominations for the Friends of Montana Libraries "Top Shelf" award. The award is given in recognition of "an outstanding contribution to the growth and development of library service in Montana." To nominate a candidate send the candidate's name and address and a description of the important contributions made by the nominee to local library service or to the development of library service in Montana plus any relevant documentation. Include your name and send your nomination to Leza Hamby, Awards Committee Chair, Friends of Montana Libraries, Rocky Mountain Laboratories Library, 903 S. 4th St., Hamilton, MT 59840. If the candidate was nominated last year, it isn't necessary to duplicate last year's documentation.



Booklet Tells How to Help Children Use Libraries

Helping Your Child Use the Library is the title of a new booklet available from the United States Department of Education. At 21 pages, it's brief enough to be read in a hurry but it's also full of valuable information. It even includes a list of organizations for further exploration of the process of teaching children to love books. The booklet is in the public domain; a photocopy may be obtained from Sallie Fenning at the State Library 1515 E. 6th, Helena MT 59620. The original is available from the Office of Educational Research and Improvement, U.S. Dept. of Education, Washington, D.C. 20208-5573.

Changes in Montana Library Personnel

Butte/Silver Bow Library Director, Phelps Shepard and Anaconda's Hearst Free Library Director Julie Shepard resigned their positions effective February 28 and February 17, respectively. They are now living in Tacoma, Washington where Phelps Shepard, who has been director at Butte since 1984, will be Manager of Central Services for the Tacoma Public Library. He will handle a budget of \$1.5 to \$2 million and will oversee a staff of between 78 and 88 persons.

Vicki Gist has been named

Acting Director of the Vande Bogart Library at Northern Montana College in Havre. She replaces Terrence Thompson.

Last Best Place Goes on Tape

The Montana State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped will sponsor a Centennial project which will benefit its users. Sheena LaMere, Volunteer Coordinator, announced that copyright permission has been secured to record *The Last Best Place*, the recently published 1,143-page anthology of Montana literature. The recording project is enhanced by the participation of writers whose work is included in the anthology.

So far, Ralph Beer and Rick Newby, two of the authors included in the anthology, have agreed to narrate their contributions for the recording. One of the book's editors, Montana historian, Richard Roeder has also agreed to narrate his introduction.

The recording will be a lasting contribution to the Centennial as well as to the blind and physically handicapped of the state. Lamere estimates volunteers will spend about 114 hours narrating the material for the final recording.



The Laws that Affect Your Library

The State Library often receives questions concerning the laws affecting public libraries. Because of this interest in library laws, the *Montana State Library News* begins this month a series of explorations of laws which seem to be the source of most questions.

This month, the question of

terms of service by public library trustees arises. Montana Codes Annotated statutes covering public library trustees (22-1-308 & 309) state that the board shall consist of five trustees and that not more than one member of the governing body shall be at any one time a member of such board. The governing body is defined as the city council or city commission for a city library or the county commission for a county library.

The law also states that trustees shall serve without compensation but that their expenses incurred in performance of their official duties may be paid by library funds.

Trustees may serve no more than two full terms in succession. A full term is defined as five years. Therefore a trustee may serve ten straight years, assuming there is reappointment to a second term. After serving ten straight years, by law, the trustee would not be eligible for immediate reappointment to the board and would have to be replaced by another individual.

Reference Institute Registrations Being Mailed

The Montana State Library will present a Basic Reference Skills Institute in Helena June 19 - 22. The Institute, funded by the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) and coordinated by the State Library, will be targeted toward librarians who do not hold formal degrees in library science.

Registration materials are being mailed to all public libraries. Those other than public librarians interested in attending, should contact Diane Gunderson at the State Library, 1515 E. 6th, Helena, Mt., 59620 444-5349. Completed registrations must be received by April 14. Confirmations of registrations and arrangements for rooms will be mailed to participants on May 15.

("Bill" cont. from pg 1)

There was some general discussion among the committee and Richard Miller and Representative Robert Thoft, sponsor of the bill, answered questions from the committee about the statewide multibranch card and about interlibrary loan.

Representative Thoft concluded the hearing with the statement that charging fees for needed library services is not acceptable and that the committee should appropriate funding for implementation of House Bill 193

The next step for the bill, if passed in committee, is that it be sent to the House of Representatives for approval and then to the Senate and, if approved by the Senate, to the Governor. The Appropriations Committee may wait several weeks to decide whether to give their approval to the bill. As of this writing, legislators may still be contacted by persons wanting to give their inputs about the bill

("LSCA" cont. from pg 1)

provides financial assistance for the improvement of libraries and library services, is up for reauthorization. The hearing scheduled in Kalispell as well as one on April 11 in Washington, D.C. provide background for those



making decisions about LSCA's future. Representative Williams is sending letters to Montana librarians inviting written testimony about LSCA. All interested persons are invited to send written testimony to the Flathead County Library, 247 1st Ave., Kalispell, 59901, before noon on Thursday, March 30. Testimony may also be telefaxed to 755-4044. Interested persons are also welcome to attend the hearing and observe the proceedings.

("Books" cont. from pg 2)

Interior Planning of Libraries edited by Jane G. Johnson (022 016 Interio) is a bibliographic guide to sources of information for those who are planning a new library building.

The How to Do It Manual for Small Libraries edited by Bill Katz (025.1 How To) is full of practical advice and solutions to problems for librarians working in small libraries with limited funds.

Best of Show at Dallas Swap & Shop

Montana librarians who created 1988 promotional materials they think are particularly good, may want to submit them as entrants in a "Best of Show" competition, the winners of which will be displayed at the 1989 American Library Association (ALA) conference in Dallas on June 25. The competition, sponsored by the Library Administration & Management Association (LAMA), will be a part of a "Swap & Shop" display of promotional ideas from libraries all over the country.

There will be 13 categories in the contest; annual reports, bookmarks, summer reading clubs, materials lists, Friends, National Library Week, special programs, user orientation materials, service/policy brochures, newsletters, fundraising materials, calendars and a "miscellaneous" category.

Send six copies of each entry to Best of Show, c/o Lisa Wolfe, Spokane Public Library, West 906 Main Ave., Spokane, WA, 99201 (509) 838-3361.

Montana State Library Commission

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Dr. Henry McClellan, Vice Chair
Bozeman

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Missoula

Nancy Keenan
Helena

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Bozeman

Commissioner of
Higher Education
Designate

Marie Thompson
Bozeman

Position Vacant

Commissioners' addresses are in the
Montana Library Directory

Richard T. Miller, Jr., State Librarian

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